

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 PC-10 USIA-15 DODE-00 AGR-20

INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00 ORM-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 HEW-08 EUR-25 DRC-01 SR-02 /187 W

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P R 141651Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4627

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 1690

AFDROUGHT

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, WHO

SUBJ: WHO ROLE IN SAHEL EMERGENCY RELIEF

REF: STATE 049764

1. MISSION OBTAINED FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL FROM WHO OFFICIALS SOLIMAN AND CAUSSE WHO ARE KEY MEMBERS SECRETARIAT GROUP WORKING ON DROUGHT PROBLEMS.

2. WHO CONTINUED TO CARRY OUT ITS REGULAR PROGRAMS IN AREAS OF SMALLPOX ERADICATION, DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC HALTH SERVICES, NURSING EDUCATION, ETC., IN ALL SIX COUNTRIES DURING 1973. OBLIGATIONS IN CY 1973 FOR THESE ACTIVITIES ARE ESTIMATED AT DOLS 1.8 MILLION. THESE ACTIVITIES BEING FUNDED PRIMARILY THROUGH WHO REGULAR BUDGET AND UNDFP/UNICEF CONTRIBUTIONS. ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING ONGOING WHO PROJECTS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT (BEING POUCHED) SUBMITTED BY WHO TO INTERAGENCY MEETING ON

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SAHEL DROUGHT HELD IN GENEVA IN JUNE 1973.

3. IN JUNE 1973 WHO PROCURED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND VACCINES COSTING DOLS 100,000 WITH HALF THIS AMOUNT COMING FROM WHO REGULAR FUNDS HELD BY AFRICAN REGIONAL OFFICE AND HALF FROM FAO TRUST FUND. THERE WERE NO OTHER EXPENDITURES BY WHO FOR SAHELIAN EMERGENCY IN 1973. ONLY OTHER FIELD-RELATED WHO INVOLVEMENT IN DROUGHT DURING 1973 WAS SENDING TWO-MAN SURVEY TEAM TO REGION IN JULY/AUGUST TO EVALUATE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF DROUGHT AND ASSIGNMENT OF THREE WHO STAFFERS TO UN INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ORGANIZED BY USYG MORSE IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER WHICH REVIEWED 123 PROJECTS PROPOSED BY INTERSTATE COMMITTEE.

4. WHO PLACING PRIORITY ON FOLLOWING AREAS IN MEETING EMERGENCY HEALTH NEEDS IN SAHEL:

(A) PROVISION OF URGENTLY NEEDED VACCINES, MEDICAMENTS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES;

(B) PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES;

(C) HEALTH ASPECTS OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY;

(D) PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF MALNUTRITION, PARTICULARLY IN VULNERABLE GROUPS OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

5. ACTIONS IN 1974:

(A) IN COLLABORATION WITH AFRO, WHO HEADQUARTERS PREPARED A DOCUMENT IN JANUARY CONTAINING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHO ACTION DURING 1974 EMERGENCY PHASE AND FOR PREPARATIONS RELATED TO MEDIUM-TERM HEALTH NEEDS IN 1975/1976 (COPIES POUCHED AID/W MARCH 6). THIS DOCUMENT WILL CONSTITUTE HEALTH SECTOR ANALYSIS IN UN SYSTEM'S OVER-ALL MEDIUM/LONG TERM PLANNING BEING COORDINATED BY USYG MORSE. AFRO PLANNING BRIEF NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES IN REGION TO INSURE THAT HEALTH COMPONENTS INCLUDED IN PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

(B) IN FEBRUARY, WHO PROVIDED DOLS 20,000 FOR PROCUREMENT OF CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS (CSM) VACCINE FOR MALI USING REGULAR FUNDS AND DOLS 10,000 CONTRIBUTION FROM BELGIUM. ADDITIONALLY IT PROCURED FROM REGULAR FUNDS ANTIBIOTICS WORTH DOLS 6,000 FOR NIGER AND REQUESTED WHO TO PROVIDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOLS 5,500 FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO TREAT CHOLERA AND OTHER DIARRHEAL DISEASES IN ALL SAHELIAN COUNTRIES.

(C) WHO HAS FORMULATED TENTATIVE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLY LIST FOR 1974 WHICH TO BE REFINED LATER, COSTING APPROXIMATELY DOLS 1 MILLION. IT CURRENTLY PROCURING FOLLOWING MEDICINES COSTING APPROXIMATELY DOLS 120,000 AS FIRST STEP IN MEETING 1974 NEEDS:

36,000 TETRACYCLINE (CELLULES)  
3,600 TETRACYCLINE (AMPOULES)  
200,000 TRISULFADIAZINE (COMPRIMES)  
400,000 CHLOROQUIN (COMPRIMES)  
8,000 SERUM GLUCOSE SALE ISOTONIQUE (LITRES)  
200,000 ORAL REHYDRATANTS (COMPRIMES)  
200,000 POLY-VITAMINES (COMPRIMES)  
120,000 POMMADE OPHTHALMIQUE AUREOMYCINE (TUBES)

(D) NIGER AND MALI ARE TO GET APPROXIMATELY DOLS 30,000 WORTH OF THESE MEDICINES EACH, WITH OTHER FOUR COUNTRIES RECEIVING ABOUT DOLS 15,000 EACH. WHO WILL PROCURE THESE SUPPLIES AND WILL BE REIMBURSED FROM US-PROVIDED DOLS 1 MILLION GRANT TO FAO TRUST FUND. ON MARCH 12 FAO DG BOERMA SIGNED LETTER ADDRESSED TO WHO DG MAHLER AUTHORIZING INITIAL WHO EXPENDITURES AGAINST FAO TRUST FUND UP TO DOLS 200,000 AND PROMISING SUBSEQUENT ALLOCATIONS AS ADDITIONAL NEEDS IDENTIFIED.

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HEW-08 EUR-25 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 /187 W

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(E) WHO PLANNING SEND AROUND END MARCH NEW SURVEY TEAM COMPOSED OF AN EPIDEMIOLOGIST (DR. CAUSSE OF WHO HEAD-QUARTERS), A NUTRITIONIST, A SANITARY ENGINEER, AND PROBABLY DR. GELLER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES IN AFRO. TEAM WILL FOCUS ON ASSESSING IMMEDIATE AS WELL AS MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS AS SEEN BY GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED,

REVISING CURRENT PROJECTIONS AS APPROPRIATE, AND WILL ATTEMPT STIMULATE FORMAL GOVERNMENT REQUESTS FOR WHO ASSISTANCE. THEY ALSO PLAN DISCUSS WITH GOVERNMENTS FEASIBILITY OF STATIONING THREE-MAN (EPIDEMIOLOGIST/NUTRITIONIST/SANITARY ENGINEER) WHO TEAM ON RELATIVELY PERMANENT BASIS IN EACH COUNTRY TO PROVIDE MOBILE SUPPORT TO EXISTING GOVERNMENT SERVICES. WHO CONSIDERS EMPLACEMENT OF SUCH TEAMS TO BE OF VERY HIGH PRIORITY BUT THEY NOT YET CERTAIN OF OBTAINING GOVERNMENT APPROVALS NOR OF OBTAINING FINANCING TO ESTABLISH/MAINTAIN TEAMS, COST OF WHICH THEY ESTIMATE AT DOLS 1 MILLION PER ANNUM. IF GOVERNMENTS INTERESTED AND FINANCING AVAILABLE, WHO BELIEVES IT CAN HAVE ALL TEAMS IN PLACE WITHIN ONE YEAR. WHO OFFICIALS AGREE IMMEDIATE PLACEMENT OF TEAMS WOULD BE PREFERABLE BUT SINCE THIS NOT FEASIBLE, THEY PURSUING IDEA ON BASIS THAT PROBABLE PERSISTENCE OF SEVERE DROUGHT-RELATED PROBLEMS FOR YEARS TO COME WILL JUSTIFY PRESENCE OF SUCH TEAMS WHENEVER THEY CAN BE ESTABLISHED. SURVEY TEAM ALSO PLAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NING DISCUSS WITH GOVERNMENTS STRENGTHENED COORDINATING ROLE FOR WHO REPS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, WHO OFFICIAL EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO ANY PROPOSAL CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE STATIONING OF INDIVIDUAL WHO OFFICERS WHO COULD HELP HEALTH MINISTRIES WITH MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. FLOWS.

6. IN MEMO DATED FEB 19, 1974 (POUCHING COPY) AFRO INFORMED UNICEF REGIONAL OFFICE OF MEASLES VACCINE REQUIREMENTS FOR 1974 IN TWENTY CWA COUNTRIES. THESE REQUIREMENTS BASED ON FULL COVERAGE SIX MONTH TO THREE YEAR AGE GROUP. DOSAGE REQUIREMENTS IN SIX SAHELIAN COUNTRIES AND BIRTH RATES FOLLOW:

COUNTRY	DOSAGE	BIRTH RATE PER 1000
CHAD	646,000	196.4
MALI	793,000	281.6
MAURITANIA	204,000	56.76
NIGER	621,000	226.3
SENEGAL	686,000	201.5
UPPER VOLTA	820,000	287.9
TOTAL	3,770,000	

WELL INFORMED WHO OFFICIAL (DR. CAUSSE) INFORMALLY ESTIMATES ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF 2 MILLION DOSES MEASLES VACCINE IF COVERAGE LIMITED TO SIX MONTH TO THREE-YEAR AGE GROUP LIVING IN HARDEST HIT REGIONS OF SAHEL. WHO UNABLE PROVIDE

INFORMATION RE POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING TO MEET THESE  
NEEDS BUT DR. CAUSSE RECALLED STATEMENT OF FRENCH REP  
ATTENDING OECCG MEETING IN BOBODIALASSO LST FALL TO EFFECT  
THAT FRANCE MAY BE ABLE TO MEET PORTION OF COSTS FOR  
MEASLES VACCINATION PROGRAM IN CWA REGION.

7. WHO OFFICIALS HAVE PROMISED KEEP MISSION FIRMED OF  
DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR, INCLUDING SURVEY TEAM FINDINGS. DALE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISASTER RELIEF, MEDICAL CARE, DROUGHTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974GENEVA01690  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740344/aaaabpgs.tel  
**Line Count:** 231  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AID  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 049764  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WHO ROLE IN SAHEL EMERGENCY RELIEF  
**TAGS:** EAID, SWEL, XA, WHO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005